IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Schmidt, et al.

Examiner:

Ser. No.:

Art Group:

Title:

BATTERY SHEATH MADE OF FORMED COLD-ROLLED SHEET METAL

AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING BATTERY SHEATHS

Filed:

May 11, 2001

<u>Date:</u> May 11, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is filed with the filing of the above case, which is a national stage entry of PCT/EP99/07961, filed 20 October 1999, which in turn claims priority from German application 198 52 202.9, filed 12 November 1998. The fees for the claims should be calculated based on the claims remaining after the entry of this Preliminary Amendment, which results in 20 total and 2 independent claims. Consistent with the modifications to 37 CFR §1.121, the applicant has provided the amended claims in a clean form on the enclosed replacement sheets.

Amendments to the Disclosure

A clean copy of the specification is provided herewith to provide headings and to insert paragraph numbering. No new matter is added.

Amendments to the Figures

None at this time.

Amendments to the Claims

After the heading "CLAIMS" and before the beginning of the claims, please insert the words: -- What is claimed is: --

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A battery [Battery] sheath made of formed cold-rolled sheet metal, which is provided at least on an [its] inside surface thereof with [a coating produced by electroplating] an electroplated coating selected from a group of metals consisting of [containing] Ni, Co, Fe, Sn,

